FOREST Joint Call 2026 : FOREST Pathways
Call link: https://forest-partnership.eu/jointcall2026/

Two stage call, deadline for preproposal: **December 2nd**.

Call budget**: up to €40 million.**

Project duration: **36 months**

Proposals are invited under four topics:

- **TOPIC 1 – Climate-Resilient Forest Systems (*"How forests function and respond to climate change").***
- **TOPIC 2 – Adaptive and Multifunctional Forest Management Systems *("How forests should be managed under changing conditions")***
- **TOPIC 3 – Timber and Innovative Wood-Based Products *("How wood is transformed into innovative products")***
- **TOPIC 4 – Forest Value Chains, Markets and Governance *("How forest-based sectors, markets and governance are organised")* .**

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General rules for application:

Project consortia must include:

- **at least three** independent legal entities, from **at least three** different EU Member States or associated countries participating in the Joint Call,

- including **at least two countries** eligible for EU funding

- Funders regulations for each participating country.

Proposed project (subject to change):

Integrated Biochemical and Thermochemical Valorization of Pulp and Paper Industry Residues for Sustainable Biochemicals and Biopolymers

Short Introduction:

The pulp and paper industry generates substantial amounts of fiber sludge and biomass residues, which are often underutilized despite their potential as feedstocks for valuable bio-based products. FIBER2VALUE aims to develop and demonstrate an integrated biorefinery concept that combines biochemical and thermochemical conversion pathways to maximize resource recovery and improve the sustainability of pulp and paper production.

The project will focus on microbial fermentation of fiber sludge to produce high-value biochemicals, particularly organic acids such as lactic acid, which can be further upgraded into biopolymers and other bio-based products. Advanced separation and purification technologies will be investigated to improve product recovery, purity and energy efficiency. As a complementary pathway, gasification of biomass residues and residual solids will be explored to produce syngas and recover energy, supporting more efficient utilization of industrial side streams.

Current partners (confirmed)

Mälardalen University (Academia), Sweden.
Finnoflag Oy (Industrial partner), Finland.

Please note that each partner will receive funding from the designated funding agency in their respective country, subject to country-specific eligibility criteria, participation requirements, and funding regulations.

For specific regulations in each participating country, pls check:

Funders regulations for each participating country.